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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/521,769	03/09/2000	Peter C Johnson	99-40165-US	3731
22881	7590	05/19/2005	EXAMINER	
ERIC J. KRON ICORIA, INC. 108 T.W. ALEXANDER DRIVE, BUILDING 1A POST OFFICE BOX 14528 RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709			MORAN, MARJORIE A	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1631		
DATE MAILED: 05/19/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/521,769	JOHNSON, PETER C
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Marjorie A. Moran	1631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,5 and 7-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2,5 and 7-9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Applicant is advised that the examiner for this application has changed. All objections and rejections not reiterated below are hereby withdrawn. Claims 1-2, 5, and 7-9 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 1st para

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-2, 5, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

This is a LACK OF WRITTEN DESCRIPTION rejection.

An imaging system which is an “in situ”, as recited in amended claim 1, is not described by the instant disclosure. The specification provides literal support for this term on page 14, therefore recitation of this term is not new matter. However, the specification does not otherwise describe either an “in situ” imaging system nor an “in situ” apparatus anywhere. Page 14 also refers to US patent application 09/338,904 for support for imaging systems, wherein the application is incorporated by reference. This application also provides a list of imaging systems, but fails to provide any actual description of an “in situ” imaging system. As neither an imaging system which is an “in situ” nor an “in situ” imaging

system is described anywhere in the originally filed specification, the claims are not supported by a full and complete description, and are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 2nd para

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-2, 5, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites an imaging system which may be "in situ". The specification provides literal support for this term on page 14, but does not otherwise describe an "in situ" imaging system anywhere. See above. The term "in situ" translates to "in place" and generally is used in the art to refer to a process; e.g. in situ hybridization. It is not clear what is intended to be an "in situ" imaging system or apparatus, as recited in claim 1, therefore claim 1 is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 5, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LUSSIER (US 5,130,545).

LUSSIER teaches a method for selection of plants for further growth and processing comprising obtaining leaves from a collection of plants, analyzing the leaves by scanning fluorimetry (col. 2, lines 17-43), comparing the analysis data to stored records (col. 6, lines 55-64), and selecting plants for further processing/treatment (col. 1, lines 46-68). LUSSIER teaches that his leaves may be representative of crop plants (col. 7, lines 3-8) and teaches that both qualitative and quantitative features may be included in his analysis (col. 6, lines 61-65). LUSSIER does not specifically teach an index of his plants features nor selecting plants for a "uniform quality end product."

It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art at the time of invention to have listed or indexed the stored features in the method of LUSSIER where the motivation would have been to facilitate comparison of measured features to stored features, as suggested by the comparison to stored features taught by LUSSIER. It would further have been obvious to have selected plants (end products) for uniform qualities (high growth rate), in the method of LUSSIER where the motivation would have been to produce plants with good growth rate and yield, as taught by LUSSIER (col. 7, lines 5-7).

Conclusion

Claims 1-2, 5 and 7-9 are rejected.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marjorie A. Moran whose telephone number is (571) 272-0720. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon,Wed: 7-1:30; Tue,Thur: 7:30-6; Fri 7-3:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel can be reached on (571)272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marjorie A. Moran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1631

Marjorie A. Moran
5/17/05